

REMARKS

Applicants have filed a Preliminary Amendment in this case canceling claims 1-104 and adding new claims 105-121. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request entry of the Preliminary Amendment. Applicants believe that entry of the Preliminary Amendment is permissible at this time as there has been no action on the merits in this case and significant additional time would not be required so as to unduly interfere with the preparation of a first office action on the substantial merits of this case. MPEP §714.03(a)(IV). The applicants believe that the shift from one set of claims to another set of claims would reduce work as by simplifying the issues and result in no additional work or expense.

If it is determined that a telephone conversation will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 25, 2003

By:



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